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Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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Chase, Philander, "Letter to Rachel Denison" (1810). *Philander Chase Letters*. 37.
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My dear Sister:

Your kind letter of the 9th of last May never reached me till a few days ago. I sincerely wish you would prefer the public to a private mode of sending your letters: it is more sure and the expense is nothing to speak of.

Notwithstanding your letter was of an early date it gave us great satisfaction: we have read over as many times, at most, as there are lines in it, with increasing pleasure — That you have learned the blessed lesson of Submission to the will of Heaven gives us plainly to understand that you enjoy all the happiness which is to be found in this valley of tears. — Continue, and perfect this kind of science — the only thing that can make earth something like heaven.

Your account of our kind Parents is cheering: what would we give to see them! — May God — the ever blessed God of our Fathers — sustain them in their declining days! — Our darling Sons you say are well: We sincerely hope that George's passion for military exercises will not so far make ^{him} lose his reason as to neglect his studies now or incline him to enter the army hereafter. I have seen so much of it here that I can not but pity all who are concerned in it.

Your information concerning all our friends in Bethel was very pleasing especially that Sister Sally bears up under her losses and that Almira is recovering.

— The death of our Cousin Polly Chase at Cornish was news to us. I believe, with you, she was an innocent & good young lady, & that she is happier in another world.

You will by this time of my letter expect to hear something of ourselves. But how shall I say any thing when all my fond hopes of returning to the land of my ^{spring} ~~born~~ fathers, the ensuing, are all at once destroyed! — Pray don't think me fickle — I have tried to do right, and in so doing have followed the path which seemed to be pointed out by Providence. My people appeared unpardonably negligent. — While my salary was untailed above one half there were no exertions making for the building a Church. I had reason to think my labours were not like to produce any permanent effect in the establishing and building up the Church here; accordingly made up my mind to go back — provided, and engaged several scholars at 400 per year; and had good reasons to think my plan was approved by Heaven and would be blessed. At this stage of affairs my attention was arrested by a Petition to the Legislature for the grant of a lottery to fulfil the conditions on which I had all along promised to stay, viz: the erecting of Church. The Vestry waited on me and begged a suspension of my designs of returning till the result of this Petition were known. To day one of them called on me and said that it had passed the lower house without a dissenting voice; and tomorrow or next day will receive the assent of the Council and Governor. Thus then it stands; and how can I, can I recede? — My "lot is cast and the whole disposal thereof is of the Lord." Perhaps I am never to see my native land & dear friends again! But of this I will still hope better things.

Tho my salary has diminished — as I told you yet I am blessed in the confidence of the people and have a full school at a very high tuition. We have 8 or 10 Boarders

mostly young misses at 100, per quarter of a year
and as many day scholars at 80, per q. To balance
this our expenses are very high - for house-rent al-
one we pay between 6 & 7, 00. per year: and every thing
else is nearly in proportion. Something however we
shall be able to spare for the education of our dar-
ling boys and to assist others who claim our attention.

You have doubtless heard of our sufferings the
last summer: Our Epidemic was general & very
fatal. Sensible people are generally of our opinion
that it was caused, at least, much heightened by the
extraordinary inundation of our Country by the
overflowing of the Mississippi. The banks during the
last fall have all been greatly raised & secured:
I trust we hope to avoid this evil the ensuing
Autumn.

May as write to me often; My heart is among you
and my prayers are for you. Tell me every thing the
papers - What is trivial to you, remember is great to
little me removed so far away.

Our best love to you dear husband and brother Timothy
My & Mrs Fay on hon^d. Parents we expect, ere this are
removed to Randolph for the education of their two
lovely Boys.

Dear Brothers and Sisters! Their names the Mirror
of my former years, and fond remembrance blends
it with my tears." Why don't dear Sister Alice
write to me? One letter from her communicative
pen would be worth volumes of trash like mine.
Farewell dear dear Sister! May the Good God
ever bless and keep you and your dear family
Most affectionately I am

Your brother

Mrs Rachel Denison.

Philander Chase



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